

of the House of Representatives in 2002 and the first female Speaker of the House in 2007. She demonstrated great skill and political savvy during her tenure as Speaker, transforming the 111th Congress into one of the most productive sessions in American history. With unmatched party unity in voting, the House of Representatives passed more landmark legislation than any Congress since the Johnson administration, addressing issues as diverse as food safety, nuclear arms treaties, and the repeal of the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military.

Her successful stewardship of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has provided healthcare to 32 million uninsured Americans and reformed a broken system. She backed Wall Street Reform as well as President Obama's stimulus package to protect working Americans from job loss and prevent economic collapse. Her handling of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the increase of minimum wage have also demonstrated her dedication to supporting pay equity in our labor force.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge Ms. PELOSI's many contributions to people living with HIV/AIDS. This issue has been a top priority for Ms. PELOSI since she first took her oath of office, and her work has led to significant advances over the past 25 years. By publicizing this issue, she has helped to reduce discrimination and social stigmas associated with the disease. She has also doubled the level of U.S. funding for global health initiatives during her time as Speaker. Ms. PELOSI is responsible for U.S. leadership on this issue, which has saved the lives of millions of the world's most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, this long list of accomplishments is a testament to Ms. PELOSI's determination, and her quarter century of service has left an indelible mark on this great institution. I am honored to serve under her leadership, and I look forward to her future accolades.

#### RECOGNIZING QUAD CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS THE "ILLINOIS PRIMARY AIRPORT OF THE YEAR"

**HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2012*

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Quad City International Airport for its selection as the "Illinois Primary Airport of the Year" at the Illinois Aviation Conference held in St. Charles, Illinois, on May 23, 2012.

Success does not come without hard work and commitment. The efforts of the employees of the Metropolitan Airport Authority, MAA, have helped the Quad City International Airport win its first "Illinois Primary Airport of the Year" award since 2004, and I applaud their dedication.

The improvements to the airport's infrastructure over the past several months and years due to partnerships with the Division of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration have been excellent and contributed to the winning of this award.

I frequently use the Quad City International Airport and am excited as the airport con-

tinues to make improvements and pursue excellence. I am pleased to see that this progress has been recognized state-wide by the Illinois Aviation Conference. I congratulate the Quad City International Airport on this much-deserved achievement and look forward to traveling to and from this site in the future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 316, I was unable to cast a vote on this amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013 due to obligations in my district. The underlying bill was a well struck balance of funding priorities.

California, my district included, is very dependent on gasoline for its transportation needs. Without the necessary research funds, the state will not be able to develop new and better ways to fuel our cars and trucks. With nearly fifty percent of California's oil coming from the Middle East, it is crucial that we continue to research and develop our fuel resources here at home to ease our dependence on an unstable source that can drive up costs on consumers.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### THE ANNIVERSARY OF FLAG DAY IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2012*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Flag Day, a national celebration of our country and its freedoms, which was originally conceived in Hartford, Connecticut.

The concept for a "Flag Day", a commemoration of the 1777 establishment of our national flag, originated in Hartford shortly after the start of the Civil War when Hartford resident Jonathan Morris imagined Flag Day as an opportunity to promote the idea of a strong union in the face of the growing conflict. He felt that engendering pride in our most potent and patriotic symbol of unity might serve as a reminder of the sacrifices borne by prior Americans to establish the country, and restore a sense of respect for the national government in Washington.

Mr. Morris related his idea to Charles Dudley Warner, editor of the Hartford Evening Press, who was impressed by the idea and wrote an editorial calling for two new national holidays, Flag Day and Constitution Day. On June 14th, 1861, with the country two months into the Civil War and with troops mustering in downtown Hartford, residents of Connecticut followed his lead and organized the first celebration to honor our flag, and all that it stood for.

After the success of the 1861 celebrations in Hartford, Jonathan Morris asked Congressman Dwight Loomis, representing the First District of Connecticut in the U.S. House of

Representatives, to introduce a resolution recommending that the people of the United States observe June 14th and September 17th as national holidays, honoring the American Flag and the Constitution. Unfortunately, the Congressional Resolution was laid on the table and never came up again.

However, presumably also at the request of Mr. Morris, Connecticut State Senator Henry Welch introduced an identical Resolution in the General Assembly, which passed the Senate on June 6, 1862, and passed the House on June 17, 1862, recommending that the citizens of Connecticut observe June 14th and September 17th as Flag Day and Constitution Day, making Connecticut the first State to do so.

Whether it was helping to lay the foundation for the United States Constitution, or being the home to distinguished citizens such as Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Samuel Colt, Hartford's history has forever been interwoven with that of our great country. Given that the city of Hartford has played such a historic role in shaping the United States, it is no surprise that the idea of Flag Day originated there.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5855) making appropriations for Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chair, as we complete consideration of H.R. 5855, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill which funds the United States Coast Guard, I rise to share with my colleagues another example of why it remains one of our most important and efficient federal agencies.

Just last month, the crew of USCGC *Resolute*, based in Sector St. Petersburg, Florida which I have the privilege to represent, intercepted shipments of cocaine in the Caribbean valued at \$135 million.

The interdictions occurred during a two-month period and were a direct result of Operation Martillo, a U.S., European, and Western Hemisphere effort to target illicit trafficking routes on Central American coasts. On May 31, 2012, *Resolute* returned to St. Petersburg after an eight-week deployment in the Western Caribbean in support of counter-narcotics and search and rescue operations with the 168 bales of cocaine.

Sector St. Petersburg has proudly served our community, the Gulf Coast and our nation since 1924. It is one of the Coast Guard's largest commands, patrolling over 370 nautical miles of Florida's coastline. The west coast's vulnerability to smuggling unwanted goods and drugs makes it a critical sector and point of interest for our nation. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg's chief operational duties include Search and Rescue, Maritime Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, and Waterways